

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 7, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,578,158 to Deitz et al. ("Deitz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,313,386 to Cook et al. ("Cook") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,027 to El-Batal ("El-Batal"), claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Deitz in view of Cook and El-Batal, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,937,777 to Flood et al. ("Flood"); claims 4-6, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Deitz in view of Cook and El-Batal and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,157 to Dube et al. ("Dube"); claims 15, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Deitz in view of Cook and El-Batal, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,928 to Olson ("Olson") and U.S. Patent No. 6,542,510 to Fujimori ("Fujimori"); claims 16 – 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Deitz in view of Cook, El-Batal, Olson and Fujimori, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,937,777 to Flood et al. ("Flood") and claims 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Deitz in view of Cook, El-Batal, Olson and Fujimori, and further in view of Dube. The Examiner also objected to the drawings. In the Office Action, the Examiner has also were objected to claims 9, 14, 19 and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that they would be allowable is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, by this Response, Applicant has amended: claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 9; claim 10 to include the limitations of claim 14; and claim 15 to include the limitation of claim 24. Applicant has also cancelled claims 2-9, 11-14 and 16-18. In view of the amendments, Applicant submits that Examiner's objections are now moot.

As discussed above, Applicant has also amended the drawings to overcome the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Examiner's objections to the drawings have also been obviated.

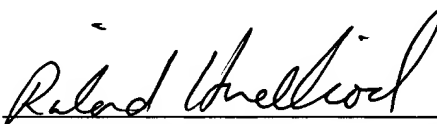
CONCLUSION

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10, 15 and 19-23 are patentable over the cited prior art, and are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of these claims, and enter an allowance of the same. Applicant further invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any matters pertaining to the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 7, 2005

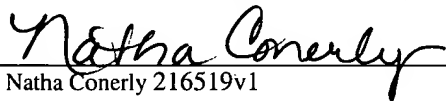
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 On February 7, 2005.



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 3. These sheets, which include Figures 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-4. Applicant submits that amendment to Figure 2 was not required to meet the description at page 8, lines 17-24 of the present application.

Figures 1 and 3 have been amended to make express that which is already inherently present in the application by adding a "PRIOR ART" legend to Figure 1, and adding lead lines and reference numerals (27 and 28) in Figure 3 to existing structure already disclosed therein; thus, no new matter has been added by these amendments.